

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the above-mentioned Office Action, claims 1 – 11 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,420,406 (*Izawa et al.*) In response thereto, Applicant herebelow distinguishes the rejected claims over *Izawa*. In addition, claims 12, 13 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; claims 14, 17, 18, 20-25, 28 and 31-33 have been amended, and new claims 41-47 have been added. The claims as now pending are patentable for at least the reasons discussed below.

An anticipation rejection requires that the examiner show where each and every claim element is located in the prior art reference. The examiner has not made that showing, Applicant respectfully contends. Specifically, MPEP Section 2131 provides:

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim...

The examiner stated in his action that the relevant portions of *Izawa* are FIG. 1 and column 7, lines 23+. However, *Izawa*, column 7, lines 23 through 27, simply states, “[I]n the foregoing embodiment, bills and coupons are stacked in the same stacker 11, but otherwise may be stacked in different stackers after dividing the bills and coupons into different passage ways at the outlet 14 by suitable sorter means.” No further discussion or disclosure is provided in *Izawa* for the “different stackers” or the “suitable sorter means.”

Many of the claims as now pending include a dual section cash box. Examples of a construction and use of a dual section cash box are provided in paragraphs 27-31 of the specification as filed. The examiner’s attention is directed to those paragraphs, which are

hereby incorporated by reference. Other constructions (and uses) of "dual section cash boxes" as would be apparent to those skilled in the art from the application as filed are included herein.

Brief discussions of each of the currently-pending independent claims (and some of the dependent claims) and the elements thereof which are not present in /zawa follow.

Original unamended independent claim 1 includes a dual section cash box as defined in the second paragraph of that claim.

Original unamended dependent claim 2 includes a transport assembly, a validator assembly, and a control signal as defined therein.

Original unamended dependent claim 5 includes a transporter assembly and a deflector as defined therein.

Original unamended independent claim 10 includes a dual section cash box as defined in the second paragraph and transport assembly and a deflector as defined in the last two paragraphs of the claim.

Independent claim 11 includes "transporting notes ... to a dual section cash box configured ... and having a first hopper for receiving currency directed to said first hopper ... and a second hopper for receiving non-currency notes ...

Independent claim 14 is generally dependent claim 14 in independent format. It includes a deflector as discussed in the last paragraph thereof, and also a dual-section cash box as defined therein.

Independent claim 17 is generally dependent claim 17 in independent format. It includes the discriminating means' operative signal as discussed in the last paragraph thereof, and also a dual-section cash box as defined therein.

Independent claim 18 is generally dependent claim 18 in independent format. It includes the placer and stacker as discussed in the last paragraph thereof, and also a dual-section cash box as defined therein.

Independent claim 24 is generally dependent claim 24 in independent format. It includes a discriminating means which sends a signal to a note deflector as discussed in the last paragraph thereof, and also a cash box having two hoppers.

Independent claim 25 is generally dependent claim 25 in independent format. It includes a placer area, plates and a stacker area as discussed in the last paragraph thereof, and a removable cash box as defined therein.

Independent claim 28 is simply dependent claim 28 in independent format. It includes a dual-section cash box as discussed in the last paragraph thereof.

Independent claim 31 is simply dependent claim 31 in independent format. It includes a dual-section cash box as discussed in the last paragraph thereof.

Independent claim 32 is simply dependent claim 32 in independent format. It includes a validator assembly signal as discussed in the last paragraph thereof.

Independent claim 33 is generally dependent claim 33 in independent format. It includes a placer assembly as discussed in the last paragraph thereof, and a cash box having two hoppers.

New independent claim 41 includes a removable dual-section cash box, a transport assembly connected to and controlled by a validator assembly for transporting currency notes from the validator assembly to a first hopper of the dual-section cash box and non-currency, casino gaming ticket notes from the validator assembly to a second hopper of the dual-section cash box. The validator assembly is adapted to send a signal as defined in the last paragraph of the claim.

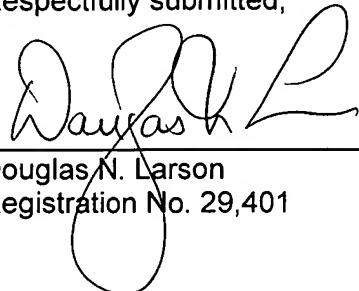


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Accordingly, issuance of the Notice of Allowance at an early date is in order and it is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues, the examiner is encouraged to call the below-signed counsel at (213) 689-5142 to seek to resolve them.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853 during the pendency of prosecution of this application. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, Applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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